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Dirksen Hits Election Bills In Mississippi

Senate GOP Leader Draws Parallel To Concept Of Communists

By MORRIS CUNNINGHAM

From The Commercial Appeal
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, April 21.—Senate Republican leader Everett M. Dirksen declared Tuesday a move by the Mississippi Legislature to cripple the Republican Party in the state “parallels the Communist conception of the single-party state.”

“The efforts to legislate the Republican Party out of existence in Mississippi,” Dirksen said, “will do no one credit and could greatly damage the reputation of the state.”

“The people of Mississippi are entitled to a real two-party system, and the thinking people of the state want it.”

“I find it incomprehensible that a legislative body in the United States could bring itself to vote a law setting up a one-party, take-it-or-leave-it state,” the Illinois Republican said.

In Mississippi, the state Democratic Executive Committee Tuesday endorsed legislation to put all political parties in the state on “an equal footing.”

Drawn up in a closed session, the resolution did not specifically mention a package of election bills pending before the House, which state Republican leaders contend will virtually destroy the GOP in Mississippi.

The committee, headed by state Democratic Chairman Bidwell Adam, gave unanimous approval to a resolution favoring passage of “such election laws as may be necessary to place all political parties in the state on an identical footing” in choosing candidates and holding elections.

Backers of the proposed legislation have said these bills are designed to make all parties operate under the same rules.

The committee set July 28 as the date for the 1964 state Democratic convention, to be held at the City Auditorium in Jackson.

Action expected at the meet-